



NEWS

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TWO PENNSYLVANIA WATERSHEDS SELECTED FOR 2006 CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

*Cooperative Conservation on Working Land Benefits
Soil and Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat*

Harrisburg, PA— Pennsylvania's French and Shenango watersheds have been selected to participate in the FY 2006 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Security Program (CSP). Farmers from nearly 2,900 farms encompassing over 400,000 acres within those watershed boundaries can apply to NRCS for the opportunity to receive payments based on the conservation work they have done in past years.

Nationally, 110 watersheds have been selected for the 2006 CSP. This voluntary program recognizes and rewards farmers for their ongoing stewardship activities on working agricultural lands. "Natural resource conservation efforts by America's producers benefit everyone through healthier soil, cleaner air and water and improved fish and wildlife habitat," remarked Agriculture Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner. "CSP successfully demonstrates a cooperative public-private conservation partnership."

The 2006 CSP will include a renewable energy component. Eligible producers can receive compensation for converting to renewable energy fuels such as bio-diesel and ethanol, for recycling 100 percent of on-farm lubricants, and for implementing energy production, including wind, solar, geothermal and methane production.

The signup period is expected to take place early this Fall. A sign-up announcement will be published that will detail specific program requirements in the watersheds. CSP will be offered each year on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows.

Additional information on CSP is on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>.

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